

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER – WEDNESDAY, 30, 2021

SUNDAY, JULY 4

Scripture: Gal. 4:29-5:1

Sermon: “John 8:31-38

Service of Holy Communion

PASTOR HANS VACATION

Pastor Hans will be taking some well-deserved days off next week. He will be on vacation July 5 – 10. You can call the Church office at 217-428-6603 or Teresa at 217-972-7093 if you need anything.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

1. Serve as an Usher or a Liturgist on Sunday mornings. Bob Moore would love to hear from you if you feel called to serve in this capacity.

2. VBS of course! There are many opportunities to help us make VBS a success. Room set up, decorating, laminating signs, hanging signs, cutting name tags, and many more tasks need to be done. If you have half an hour, an hour, or more, anytime in the next week and a half, please call, text, or email Teresa at 217-972-7093.

3. Cookies. Would you be willing to make cookies or another dessert for one of our volunteer meals? Dessert is needed for Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday the week of VBS.

4. Register your children and spread the word to your family, friends, and neighbors who have children ages three years old through completed fifth grade. Our VBS is Sunday, July 11 – Thursday, July 15 from 6:00 to 8:00pm

PNC NEWS

Our Pastoral Nominating Committee has begun meeting. At this point there is no news to report. They just ask for your prayers and they begin their work.

RUMMAGE SALE

The rummage sale is coming. Plans are underway for the rummage sale to be held Friday, August 20 from 8-2 and Saturday, August 21 from 8- noon. More details will be coming, later, but put the date on your calendar

If you have been home cleaning during this year of the virus and have boxes of items for the rummage sale, you may begin to bring them now. Call the office 217-428-6603 before you come to make sure someone is at the church. Since we already have many items, it would be helpful if you could bring some of the items in a box. No adult clothing or electronics will be accepted.

MISSION COLLECTION

The Mission Committee will begin collecting items for God's Shelter of Love. Below is a list of items that can be brought in and put in the Narthex. We will have a collection basket for items.

Cat food

Body wash, lotion

Shampoo/Conditioner

All cleaning products: rags, bleach, wipes, brooms, dustpans, mops, toilet brush, small trashcans, garbage bags, dish soap, sponges

Small appliances: crock pots, coffee pots, toasters, vacuum cleaners, TV's (24-32in.)

Silverware

Baking pans

All paper products

Towels, wash cloths

ON THE CALENDAR

6/30 VBS Registration 4:00 – 6:00 front lawn

6/30 VBS Volunteer Training 6:00pm

7/4 VBS Volunteer Training 11:00am

7/5 Church Office Closed

7/6 VBS Volunteer Training 3:00pm

7/8 Worship Music Meeting 5:30pm

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HANS

Dear Friends,

Last week I talked about two great principles which are in constant conflict with each other, and have a major impact on our life, and what is more important to me, on our spirituality.

As I had to do some plumbing work, I feel like I need to elaborate on the negative of this yin yang like duo: Murphy's law. It is named after Ed Murphy, an aerospace engineer who built measurement devices which continuously failed. The phrase was purportedly coined by Air force colonel and flight surgeon Dr. John Stapp. For mysterious reasons, Murphy was not really happy with being associated with the law that 'Anything that can go wrong will go wrong', and spent the rest of his life discounting it. An endeavor which, because of Murphy's law, failed.

I thought about Murphy's law when a rarely used toilet in our home did not stop running. I checked it out and discovered that the flush valve and the shut off valve were leaking, and the fill valve was in bad shape too. This, by the way, is a classic example of the positive side effect of Murphy's law: when everything goes bad to have the most noticeable thing go bad will protect you from damage by less noticeable problems. In this case, when the flush valve fails everybody notices it immediately. A shut off valve, however, can quietly drip for years, and in the process introduce into your home the added joys of mold, crumbling drywall, and rotting wall joists.

There are many corollaries to Murphy's law, kind of Murphy's legal system. An enthusiast spent even the time to rank them which tells me that he was not into actually doing things. When you actually do things, you spent half your time fixing the problems that pop up as you fix problems. The other half of your time you spend collapsed from the inherent exhaustion that comes from dealing with problems, their offspring, and the offspring of their offspring.

Here is the complete list:

Murphy's Second Law: Nothing is as easy as it looks.

Murphy's Third Law: Everything takes longer than you think it will.

Murphy's Fourth Law: If there is a possibility of several things going wrong, the one that will cause the most damage will be the one to go wrong. **Corollary:** If there is a worse time for something to go wrong, it will happen then.

Murphy's Fifth Law: If anything simply cannot go wrong, it will anyway.

Murphy's Sixth Law: If you perceive that there are four possible ways in which a procedure can go wrong, and circumvent these, then a fifth way, unprepared for, will promptly develop.

Murphy's Seventh Law: Left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse.

Murphy's Eighth Law: If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.

Murphy's Ninth Law: Nature always sides with the hidden flaw.

Murphy's Tenth Law: Mother nature is a bitch.

Murphy's Eleventh Law: It is impossible to make anything foolproof because fools are so ingenious.

Murphy's Twelfth Law: Whenever you set out to do something, something else must be done first.

Murphy's Thirteenth Law: Every solution breeds new problems.

Murphy's Fourteenth Law: If anything can't go wrong on its own, someone will make it go wrong.

By the way, I personally am not a fan of law #10. I find nature has many wonderful and inspirational aspects. It's just when we try to modify and control nature that we run into problems. Like for example toilets. Toilets do not occur naturally. The biblical concept for toilets we find in Deuteronomy 23:12-13, 'Designate a place outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself. As part of your equipment have something to dig with, and when you relieve yourself, dig a hole and cover up your excrement.' See, no shut off valves, fill valves, or flush valves to start leaking. No wax seal or rubber gaskets to go south. If you ask me quite ingenious for 1500 B.C. On the other hand, imagine if the city of Chicago tried to live by that rule. Just imagine. ...

But I digress. One of the countermeasures to Murphy's law provided to us by the gift of modern technology is you tube. Remember, guys, yon olden days when we used Hay's manuals to figure out how to save a buck or two on car repairs? Remember when your car got too old to warrant it's own dedicated manual, and suddenly it was part of a manual for fixes for 5 model years? And you entered the realm of soothsaying trying to figure out which of the five variations on fixes applied to your particular model? No

more. You tube provides fix it videos for all models for all problems. If you know the right question the internet will provide the right answer. If ...

Like in the case of the dripping shut off valve. Just tighten the packing nut. See law #2. I am strong. I break a pair of forged steel pliers. The packing nut does not move. Next: law #3. I watch a you tube video put up by an old hand who says, you do not even have to turn the water main off to replace the packing for the packing nut. All, you have to do is take off the handle law #5. That handle is going to stay on till the second coming of the Lord. WD40 does not even touch it. So I turn of the water main. No problem there. I went through the whole Murphy's legal code with it 3 years ago. The packing nut comes loose together with the whole valve assembly. At this point I decide to replace the shut off valve ... let us just say, I did not after Murphy's law ##4, 5, 6, 8,11, 13 and 14 hit me full blast. With the corollary to Murphy's law #4 on my mind, and the fact that my wife does like to have water available when she wakes up, for such minor things as personal hygiene and coffee, I turn to plan B: pray hard and reassemble the thing.

I do not know why prayer works, but it does. Many a time I have prayed to the Lord, 'Please loosen that screw or I will be screwed.' and for reasons unbeknownst to me it works. What is really depressing in all this is my slow learning curve. I should have known better, and started praying at the front end. The sad truth is that I was full of misplaced confidence in my and the internet's wisdom. (And me a minister to boot.) In the end we all act way more as the children of Adam than the children of God. That little bit of the fruit from the tree of knowledge is keeping haunting us. We always think we know better, and look what the world looks like. Look what our country looks like! Look what our town looks like!! Look what our church looks like!!! ... You can continue going down that road, but I gonna stop here before I dig myself a hole I can't get out of.

So, I say, pray, dear friends, pray harder! Pray like your life depends on it!! For all we know it might, particularly when you start messing with the fuse box. (But that is a tale for another day.) Pray for your families, and also, put in a prayer for your church. By God, we need it, or we don't have a prayer.

Remember, I am pulling for you, and the shut off valve drips a lot less. Oh, well, you can't win them all.

Pastor Hans